

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a control component that comprises an interface usable by an administrator to
5 designate one or more tones and/or one or more announcements that are playable in a communication session as interruptible.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the administrator employs the interface to dynamically designate a tone as interruptible, wherein the tone is playable at a communication device;

10 wherein the control component stops playing the tone at the communication device without playing the tone to completion upon receipt of an interruption request from a user of the communication device.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the administrator comprises a service provider associated with the communication device;

15 wherein the service provider may customize a tone and/or announcement service for the communication device by employing the interface to designate the one or more tones and/or the one or more announcements as interruptible and one or more other tones and/or one or more other announcements as not interruptible.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the user presses a button on the communication device to initiate an interruption of the tone;

wherein the control component interprets the button press as the interruption request, wherein the control component stops playing the tone at the communication device based on
5 the button press.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control component plays the tone at the communication device in a communication session;

wherein the user of the communication device sends the interruption request to the control component to skip a remainder of the tone and progress to a next phase in the
10 communication session;

wherein upon receipt of the interruption request, the control component moves to the next phase in the communication session.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control component comprises a mobile switching center.

15 7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a configuration database that stores one or more indications associated with the one or more tones and/or the one or more announcements that are designated by the administrator as interruptible.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the administrator employs the interface to set the one or more indications in the configuration database to represent that the one or more
20 tones and/or the one or more announcements are interruptible.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein upon receipt of an instruction to play a tone at a communication device, the mobile switching center accesses the configuration database to determine whether the tone is indicated as interruptible or not interruptible; wherein the mobile switching center plays the tone at the communication device.

5 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein upon receipt of an interruption request from a user of the communication device, the mobile switching center stops playing the tone at the communication device if the tone is indicated as interruptible; wherein upon receipt of the interruption request from the user of the communication device, the mobile switching center continues playing the tone at the communication device if 10 the tone is indicated as not interruptible.

11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the mobile switching center comprises the interface to allow the administrator to update one or more of the one or more indications from a representation of interruptible to a representation of not interruptible.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control component allows the 15 administrator to set a designation of a tone as interruptible, wherein the control component allows the administrator to change the designation of the tone to prevent interruption of the tone.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more tones and/or the one or 20 more announcements that are playable in the communication session comprise audible signals in a telephone call.

14. A method, comprising the step of:
interfacing an administrator with a configuration database to allow the administrator to designate in the configuration database one or more tones and/or one or more announcements that are playable in a communication session as interruptible.

5 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the administrator comprises a service provider associated with a communication device, wherein the step of interfacing the administrator with the configuration database to allow the administrator to designate in the configuration database the one or more tones and/or the one or more announcements that are playable in the communication session as interruptible comprises the steps of:

10 allowing the service provider to modify the configuration database to customize a tone and/or announcement service for the communication device; and

allowing access to the configuration database for the service provider to designate the one or more tones and/or the one or more announcements as interruptible and one or more other tones and/or one or more other announcements as not interruptible.

15 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the administrator dynamically designates a tone of the one or more tones as interruptible, wherein the tone comprises an audible signal in a telephone call, the method further comprising the steps of:

playing the tone at the communication device; and

stopping the playing of the tone at the communication device before completion of the

20 tone upon receipt of an interruption request from a user of the communication device.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

accessing the configuration database, upon receipt of an instruction to play a tone at a communication device, to determine whether the tone is indicated in the configuration database as interruptible or not interruptible; and

5 playing the tone at the communication device.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

stopping the playing of the tone at the communication device upon receipt of an interruption request from a user of the communication device if the tone is indicated as interruptible; and

10 continuing to play the tone at the communication device upon receipt of the interruption request from the user of the communication device if the tone is indicated as not interruptible.

19. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

interfacing the administrator with the configuration database to allow the 15 administrator access to the configuration database for an update of a designation of one or more of the one or more tones and/or the one or more announcements from a representation of interruptible to a representation of not interruptible; and

preventing an interruption of the one or more of the one or more tones and/or the one or more announcements with the representation of not interruptible.

20. An article, comprising:

one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media; and

means in the one or more media for interfacing an administrator with a configuration database to allow the administrator to designate in the configuration database one or more tones and/or one or more announcements that are playable in a communication session as
5 interruptible.

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